

## **Cy Press Awards and Grants July 2009 - June 2010**

### **Office of the Attorney General**

### **Consumer Protection Division**

March 2011

The Washington State Attorney General's Office's Consumer Protection Division enforces the state's Consumer Protection Act. The resolution of lawsuits brought by this division often recovers costs and fees incurred in bringing the action, restitution for consumers and civil penalties which go to the general fund.

Sometimes these cases also result in awarding of "cy pres" funds, to be utilized to address the harm caused by the actions which gave rise to the settlement. The funds which can be general or specific in nature, depending on the language used in the court order which mandates the payment to the state. The specific language of each court order resolving the case directs the subject matter limitations of cy pres ("next best use") grants.

In 2009, the legislature passed a bill requiring the Attorney General's Office to: "annually report to the fiscal committees of the legislature all new cy pres awards and settlements and all new accounts, disclosing their intended uses, balances, the nature of the claim or account, proposals, and intended timeframes for the expenditure of each amount. The report shall be distributed electronically and posted on the attorney general's web site. The report shall not be printed on paper or distributed physically."

<http://www.atg.wa.gov/page.aspx?id=24874>